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SECTION VI

BONE AND SHELL

Split bone awl: (Fig. No. 1-3).

Sample: Ten occurred in excavation in southwest Tamaulipas.

Form: All are made from splinters of long bones of mammals and are very long isosceles triangles in outline and are concavo-convex in cross-section except right at the point where they are ~~convex-convex~~ concavo-convex.

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 54 to 112 mm.

Maximum width ranges from 10 to 16 mm.

Maximum thickness ranges from 3 to 8 mm.

Manufacturing technique: All were made from splinters of bone roughly triangular in outline. Then the pointed end and point of the adjacent shaft were polished or abraded to form a long narrow rounded point.

Use: Awl for piercing leather.

Geographical and Temporal Range: Very general.

Relationships:

References:

Split bone awl with pierced base: (Fig. No. 4)

Sample: Two specimens from Canyon Infiernillo.

Form: A long narrow shaft of bone roughly triangular in outline and concavo-convex in cross-section with a hole in the end opposite the point.

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 58 to 63 mm.

Maximum width ranges from 12 to 16 mm.

Maximum thickness ranges from 6 to 9 mm.

Manufacturing technique: These are splinters of bone that have been polished or abraded to a point. After the awl was completed by using a hand-drill and by drilling from the two surfaces along the same axis a hole was made near the base.

Use: Bone awl with hole for holding

Temporal and Geographical Range: General, though in southwest Tamaulipas this type is confined to the period from 2800 to 7000 B.C.

Relationships:

References:

Antler piercer: (Fig. No. 5-8)

Sample: Seven from southwest Tamaulipas.

Form and manufacturing technique: These are the tips of deer antlers that have been used. Two tips show wear scratches going round the tips. Three of the tips are burned.

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 48 to 112 mm.

Maximum diameter ranges from 12 to 22 mm.

Use: On the basis of the scratches on the tips, I believe some were used as awls. Others may have been used as flint retouching tools or flakers, as their ends are polished and bear no scratches.

Temporal and Geographical Range: Very general.

Relationships:

References:

Large antler flaker or hammer: (Fig. No. 19-20)

Sample: 3.

Form and manufacturing technique: These are short wide cylinders made from the proximal portions of deer antlers. First the sections of antler were sawed part way through and

then snapped in two. Next these convex ends were smoothed and battered.

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 58 to 76 mm.

Maximum diameter ranges from 25 to 39 mm.

Use: I believe these antler tools were used for flaking flint. Their size and weight suggest they were mainly used in striking percussion blows.

Temporal and Geographical Range: In the Sierra Madre of Tamaulipas they occurred from 5000 to 1800 B.C. In the southwest they are somewhat younger. However, similar tools are widespread over much of North America.

Relationships:

References:

Small antler flaker: (Fig. No. 16-18)

Sample: Seven from southwest Tamaulipas.

Form and manufacturing technique: Same as Antler hammers.

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 62 to 94 mm.

Maximum diameter ranges from 14 to 18 mm.

Use: These tools were used as flint flakers. Their relatively narrower ends, and evidence of wear on their sides near the ends, suggest their ends were not only used for percussion and resolved flaking but that the edges of the ends may have been used for pressure retouching.

Temporal Range: In Tamaulipas from 300 to 1750 A.D.

Geographical Range: Most of North America.

Relationships:

References:

Ulna punch:

Sample: 3.

Form and manufacturing technique: These are made from ulna of deer. The distal ends have been

snapped off and the resulting section polished to a flat or very slightly convex end, while the adjacent flat surfaces have been worn or ground.

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 84 to 135 mm.

Width of tip ranges from 7 to 8 mm.

Thickness of tip ranges from 2 to 3 mm.

Use: These are weaving tools used in the production of baskets and matts.

Temporal and Geographical Range: Southwest Tamaulipas from 1800 B.C. to 1750 A.D.

Relationships:

References:

Long bone flesher:

Sample: 1.

Form and manufacturing technique: This is made from a split long bone (femora) of a deer. The proximal end is intact but the other end has been broken off. This broken end has then been polished and ground on the split surface so that it has a sharp convex edge. The outer surface near the convex end also shows some use of polish but no abrading.

Dimensions: Approximate length: 106+ mm.

Width at cutting edge: 11 mm.

Use: These tools are often called beamers but I believe this one (and perhaps the others) was used for fleshing (removing the fat and epidermis) from the skins of animals.

Temporal and Geographical Range: In southwest Tamaulipas these appear from 300 to 900 A.D. In the Southwest and the Great Plains these occur from 500 to 1900 A.D.

Relationships:

References:

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Narrow tubular bone bead:

Sample: 91.

Form and manufacturing technique: These are cylindrical beads made from legs of some sort of animal small bead by sawing sections from the beads.

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 4 to 19 mm.

Maximum diameter ranges from 3 to 5 mm.

Use: The beads were threaded to form necklaces as well as belts.

Temporal and Geographical Range: Though such beads are common throughout North America, they do not appear in southwest Tamaulipas until about 300 A.D. and last until historic times.

Relationships:

References:

Phalange beads:

Sample: 3.

Form and manufacturing technique: These beads are made from a phalange of a deer or a mammal of similar size. In making the bead the distal and proximal ends have been sawn off and the sawed edges polished. This resulted in an almost short wide cylindrical bead with one end just slightly longer than the other.

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 19 to 24 mm.

Maximum diameter ranges from 13 to 17 mm.

Minimum diameter ranges from 9 to 11 mm.

Use: These bone cylinders were undoubtedly strung for necklaces or belts.

Temporal and Geographical Range: Southwest Tamaulipas from 900 to 1750 A.D.

Relationships:

References:

Small disk bead:

Sample: 9.

Form and manufacturing technique: These disks or rings were made by slicing or sawing thin sections of bird-leg bones.

Dimensions: Maximum length: 1 mm.

Maximum diameter: 3 to 5 mm.

Use: Two of these were found threaded so there is little doubt that they served as beads for a necklace or belt.

Temporal and Geographical Range: In southwestern Tamaulipas they occurred from 300 to 1500 A.D.

Relationships:

References:

Bone needle or pin:

Sample: 1.

Form and manufacturing technique: This pin-like tool has been made from a sliver of a long bone and has been ground so it is round in cross-section with a short conical point. The end opposite the point is missing.

Dimensions: Length: 49 mm.

Maximum diameter: 2 mm.

Use: This may have been used as a pin or needle.

Temporal and Geographical Range: Southwest Tamaulipas, 900 to 1400 A.D.

Relationships:

References:

Turtle shell rattle:

Sample: 4 fragments.

Form and manufacturing technique: These four fragments of turtle shell all have been cut or

polished and two have holes drilled along their edges by the use of a bow drill.

Use: The drilled holes near the edge of shell lead me to suspect that they were rattles that were attached to handles or a part of the body by string that went through the holes.

Temporal and Geographical Range: 300 to 1400 A.D. in Canyon Infiernillo.

Relationships:

References:

Tubular bone object with gum:

Sample: 1.

Form, use, and manufacturing technique: This is a tubular piece of bone made by sawing into a bird-leg bone. One end has a large amount of gum on it that forms a ring of gum about 3 mm. from the end. This suggests that the tube was to,or into, something else, perhaps as a mouthpiece or some sort of spout. Exactly what the tube was part of has not been determined.

Dimensions: Length: 34 mm.

Diameter: 6 mm.

Temporal and Geographical Range: Canyon Infiernillo, 900 to 1400 A.D.

Relationships: ?

References: ?

Snail
Small shell bead:

Sample: 12.

Form and manufacturing technique: These ~~small~~ snail shells have a single roundish hole broken into their sides just in back of their openings.

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 16 to 31 mm.

Maximum diameter ranges from 7 to 12 mm.

Size of holes: 1 to 4 mm.

? Use: Two of the beads have string passing through the broken hole and the ?

opening suggesting that these were beads for a necklace.

Temporal and Geographical Range: Southwest Tamaulipas, 9000 B.C. to 1400 A.D.

Relationships:

References:

Rectangular cut shell:

Sample: 2.

Form and manufacturing technique: Both of these are rectangles ~~and~~ cut from shell and with their edges polished. One has a series of little notches or incisions along one edge.

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 19.5 to 21 mm.

Maximum width: 15 mm.

Use: Unknown.

Temporal and Geographical Range: In Canyon Infiernillo from 900 to 1750 A.D.

Relationships:

References:

Pierced clam shell:

Sample: 5.

Form and manufacturing technique: All these are made from fresh-water mollusks and have a single hole drilled from both sides near the fulcrum. The hole seems to have been drilled with a hand-drill.

~~Size:~~

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 33 to 67 mm.

Maximum width ranges from 27 to 45 mm.

Diameter of holes: 2 to 6 mm.

Use: Pendant.

Temporal and Geographical Range: In southwest Tamaulipas, 1500 B.C. to 1750 A.D.

Shell gorgets:

Sample: 3.

Form and manufacturing technique: Clam shells which were first cut or sawed into their desired oblong or rectangular shape and then two holes drilled from the same surface near the two shorter edges.

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 22 to 26 mm.

Maximum width ranges from 12 to 14 mm.

Diameter of holes: 2 mm.

Use: Gorget to be strung on a necklace or belt.

Temporal and Geographical Range: Canyon Infiernillo, 1800 B.C. to 1400 A.D.

Relationships:

References:

Clam shell dish or spoon:

Sample: 7.

Form and manufacturing technique: These are all single valves of fresh-water clams which show wear or use mckenig along their lateral edges.

Dimensions: Maximum length ranges from 63 to 84 mm.

Maximum width ranges from 32 to 46 mm.

Use: Four of these occur with Burial I in Tm c 248 and one with Burial 16 in Tm c 247. All of these have wear along one edge. I would suspect they were used as some sort of spoon and placed with the dead for use in the hereafter.

Temporal and Geographical Range: 400 to 1750 A.D. in southwest Tamaulipas.

Relationships:

References:

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Total	154	3	4	5	2	1	94	26	2	
Split bone awl	x	2	1	1			2	2		
" " " tool	x	1		1						
Antler pieces	x		1	1	1		1		3	
Large antler flakes	x		2	1						
Ulna Punch	x			1				1		1
Cut & shaped bone	x				1		1	4	1	
Processed antler flakes	x					1	1	5		
Long bone flakes	x						1	10		1
unmodified bone beads	x						80	2	1	
Bone beads	x						7	2	1	
Small disk bead	x									1
Bone needle	x									
Tubular pointed object	x							1		
Turtle shell ornament	x						1	3		
Total	28	2	2	4	1	1	2	12	5	
Pierced small shell	x	2	2	3		1	1	3		
Bent ~~shell bead~~ unf. shell				0				1	1	
Pierced Phalanx					1			3	1	3
Shell spoon								4		
Shell gouged				1			1?	1		

| | | |

[SECTION VI BONE AND SHEAR]

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